

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
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FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6083
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 802

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, NG, LY, AG
SUBJ: CHAD-LIBYA BORDER PROBLEM--A MEDIATOR'S ROLE FOR NIGER

1. PLANS ARE PROCEEDING FOR THIRD NIGER-ALGERIA-LIBYA
SUMMIT TO BE HELD IN SECOND HALF MARCH IN NIAMEY. AS
HERALDED IN TRIPOLI COMMUNIQUE LAST NOVEMBER, EFFORTS
ALSO GOING FORWARD TO FOLD CHAD AND MALI INTO NEXT ROUND
OF TALKS.

2. IN THIS CONTEXT, FOREIGN MINISTER DJERMAKOYE DEPARTED
FOR N'DJAMENA FEBRUARY 16 IN WHAT LOOKS LIKE INITIATIVE
NOT ONLY TO EXPAND SUMMIT FORMAT BUT ALSO TO ASSERT
MEDIATING ROLE FOR NIGER ON CHADIAN-LIBYAN PROBLEMS.
IN PRE-DEPARTURE PRESS CONFERENCE, DJERMAKOYE CONFIRMED
THAT CHIEFS OF STATE OF MALI AND CHAD HAVE BEEN INVITED
TO ATTEND MARCH SUMOT. IN SURPRISINGLY DIRECT ANSWER
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TO QUESTION ABOUT WHETHER NIGER INTENDED MEDIATE CHAD-
LIBYA BORDER PROBLEM, WHICH USUALLY DOWNPLAYED HERE,
FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT NIGER WAS FULLY PREPARED TO
ASSIST IN BRINGING ABOUT DETENTE AND EVOKED QUOTE
IMPORTANT ROLE UNQUOTE THAT NIGER HAD PLAYED DURING
CONFLICT BETWEEN MALI AND UPPER VOLTA.

3. IN ANY CASE WE BELIEVE DJERMAKOYE VISIT TO CHAD PROBABLY DESIGNED TO DO MORE THAN WORK OUT PROTOCOL DETAILS OF CHADIAN PARTICIPATIONHJT NEXT SUMMIT MEETING. THERE HAS BEEN INCREASING RHYTHM OF LIBYAN CONTACTS HERE RECENTLY WHICH, ALTHOUGH ALLEGEDLY FOR PURPOSE OF PLANNING SUMMIT, COULD WELL HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH ORCHESTRATING INITIATIVE ON PROBLEMS BETWEEN CHAD AND LIBYA. IT LOGICAL TO ASSUME, AT A MINIMUM, THAT DJERMAKOYE'S VISIT TO CHAD HAS BEEN COORDINATED WITH LIBYANS.

4. FRENCH EMBASSY (PROTECT CAREFULLY) TELLS US KOUNTCHE HAS ALSO HAD CORRESPONDENCE WITH FROLINAT AND OTHER ELEMENTS OF CHADIAN REBELLION AND SURMISES IT WOULD NOT BE SURPRINING IF DOUNTCHE IS EMBARKED ON MEDIATING EFFORT RE CHADIAN PROBLEMS. HOWEVER, FRENCH HERE HAVE RESPONDED IN NON-COMMITTAL WAY TO OUR PROBES ABOUT WHETHER THEY THEMSELVES MAY BE SUPPORTING A GON MEDIATION ROLE. AT SAME TIME FRENCH EMBASSY ALSO SPECULATES QUOTE ON STRICTLY PERSONAL BASIS UNQUOTE THAT FOLLOWING LIBYA'S OBVIOUSLY KEY ASSISTANCE IN LIBERATING MADAMK CLAUSTRE, QUOTE PARIS UNQUOTE MAY BE OPERATING BEHIND THE SCENES WITH LIBYANS TO HELP PROMOTE SOME MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE OUTCOME CHADIAN INTERNAL PROBLEMS AND CHAD-LIBYA BORDER DISPUTE. FENCH EMBASSY INCIDENTALLY SEES CHADIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KAMOUGUE RATHER THAN PRESIDENT MALLOUM AS PRINCIPAL OBSTACLE TO ACCOMMODATION BETWEEN VARIOUS FACTIONS IN CHAD.JAMES

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